

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

The drawings have been corrected, in accordance with the examiner's request. Formal drawings are enclosed.

The specification has been corrected, in accordance with the examiner's request.

An IDS is included with the previously unsubmitted reference in the specification.

Claims 10-20 are drawn to non-elected inventions and have been withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected.

Claims 7-9 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application.

### **Amendment**

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 7-9. Claims 7-9 are subsequently canceled. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to include some recitations of claim 10, and to provide clarification of incorporated claims 8 and 9 in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on newly amended claim 1 and applicants' above comments with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. For the foregoing reasons, claims 1-6 are now deemed allowable.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the above rejection.

Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kuppens et al. US 4,494,902. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended into a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Claims 6 and 7 are dependent on claim 1, and therefore include all of the recitations of claim 1, and are deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuppens et al in view of Keizer et al US 4,166,562. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 are dependent on claim 1, and therefore include all of the recitations of claim 1, and are deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuppens et al in view of JP Application JP04143850 to Matsuoka. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, and therefore includes all of the recitations of claim 1, and is deemed allowable as well for the same reason.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

## Conclusion

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

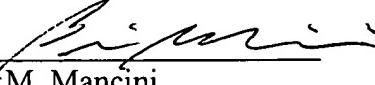
Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,  
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